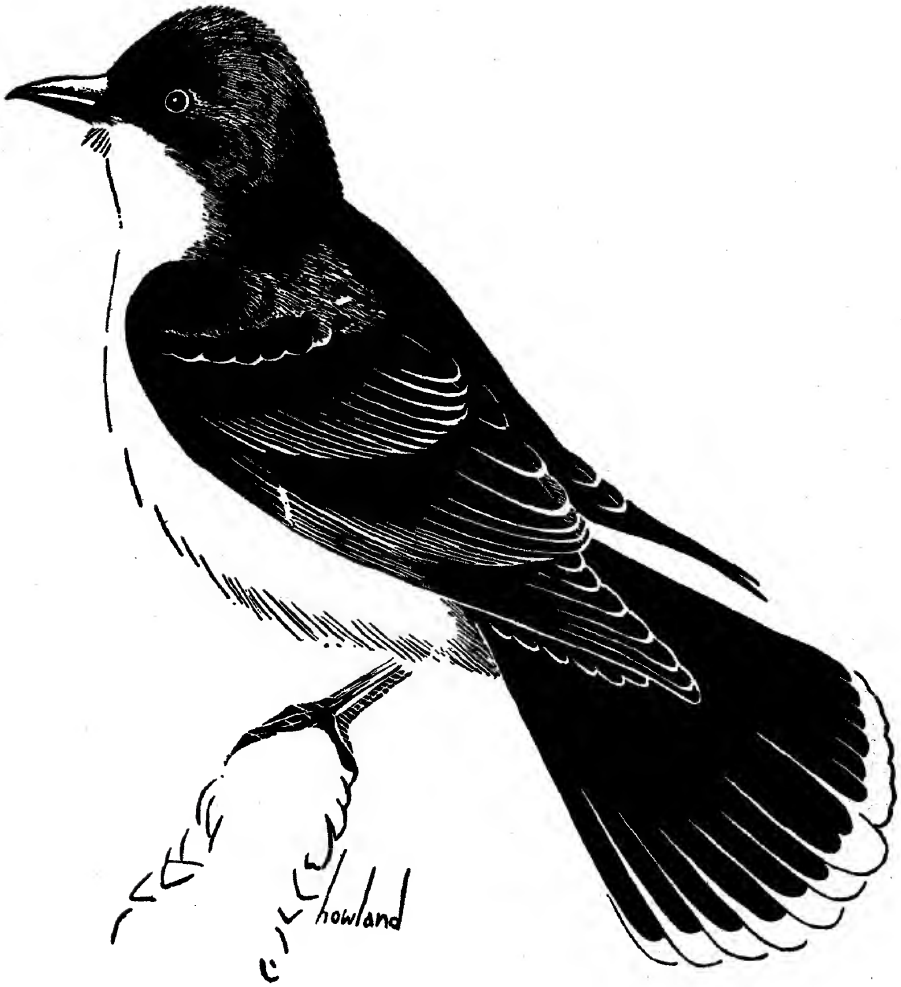
The KINGBIRD



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

The KINGBIRD

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NOTICE

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YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS . . . .

Come to Elmira for our eighth annual Federation Meeting on May 28 and 29. Detailed plans for this meeting will be in your hands before you receive this issue of the *Kingbird.* Mr. Albert Fudge, chairman of the Federation Program Committee, and Mr. Ryan, chairman of the Local Program Committee, are making plans which assure us an interesting and enjoyable meeting, banquet and field trip.

Many members will have an opportunity to go birding for the first time in this southern tier region. It is one of the few places in central and western New York where the Worm-eating Warbler can be found nesting. The beauty of the Chemung River Valley is appealing to the eye, and our hosts — the Chemung Valley Audubon Society — a very friendly organization. What more need I say.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

Elmira, N. Y. — May 27, 28, 29

FRIDAY, MAY 27

7 P. M.—Committee Meetings

SATURDAY, MAY 28

9 A. M.—Council Meeting
Field trips for those not attending council

2 P. M.—General Meeting

7 P. M.—Annual Dinner

SUNDAY, MAY 29

7 A. M.—Field Trip
Box Lunches served at noon

Complete information will be mailed to all Member Clubs and Individual Members of the Federation.

Others wishing information may write to:
ALBERT W. FUDGE, *General Chairman*
326 Larchmont Rd. Elmira, N. Y.

BIRDS OF ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK

EDNA HEWES MCMURTRY

Allegany County is one of seven counties which make up the southern tier of New York. Cattaraugus County lies to the west, Livingston and Wyoming to the north and Steuben to the east. The entire county is on the northern edge of the Allegheny Plateau and was covered by ice during the Pleistocene Epoch except for a small portion in the southwestern corner. (McClintock and Apfel 1944). Alma Hill, (2548 ft.) southwest of Wellsville, is the highest point in New York west of the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains. White Hill is to the west at 2500 ft. and another hill near Whitesville is 2400 ft. The Genesee River, which flows north through the area, drains three-quarters of the land. The lowest point in the county is near Rossburg where the Genesee leaves the county to form the boundary between Wyoming and Livingston Counties. The elevation here is 1134 feet above sea level. The Southwestern portion is drained by tributaries of the Allegheny River; a few square miles in the northwest corner drain into Cattaraugus Creek and into Lake Erie; the east-central portion is drained by tributaries of the Susquehanna River. The area of the county is about 670,720 acres of which 442,088 are listed as farm land in the 1950 census. (Reed 1952.)

One hundred and sixty years ago the land was an unexplored wilderness covered by virgin forests. Nathaniel Dyke cleared the first bit of land in 1795. He later erected a cabin, saw and grist mill, and a tannery at Wellsville. French's Gazatteer (1860) states the mills which were erected in 1802 were the first in the county.

In 1840 the building of the Erie Railroad was assured and following its completion through the area lumbering of the white pine and later the hemlocks began in earnest. In 1854 Carlton Farnum of Wellsville, one of several lumbermen, shipped 50 million feet of white pine. (Minard 1896).

With the removal of the forest, particularly in the southern half of the county, changes were noted in the bird life. Professor F. S. Place (1896) about forty years after the major part of the lumber was cut, wrote that the ravens, once common, were rarely seen in Elm Valley. The Pileated Woodpecker, familiar to the early settlers, was rarely seen then even in the more heavily timbered areas. The Passenger Pigeons, shot and netted by the score as late as the early seventies, were only occasionally seen. The Crows were increasing, and the English Sparrow appeared in the county in 1874. Quail, he noted, had almost disappeared.

Professor F. S. Place (Alfred) in 1896 contributed a list of birds (Minard's Allegany County History) and a few years later along with Mr. E. S. Gilbert (Canaseraga) and Mr. A. C. Whitford (Alfred) assembled the first annotated list of birds for the county which was published by Eaton (1910). This list gives the status, frequency, and dates of arrival in the spring for one hundred and forty species. According to Eaton (ibid) this list was drawn up about 1900. At this period the Bobwhite was considered rare, Red-headed Woodpecker fairly common, Blue Jay uncommon, Vesper Sparrow abundant, Brown Thrasher uncommon. The status of these birds appears to have changed since then. Some species such as the Cardinal and Olive-backed Thrush were not given on the 1900 list.

Since 1900 lumbering and farming have decreased considerably and much land, originally cleared, has now gone back into second growth. Reed (1952) states that there are 43,955 acres in Public Lands, and 59,864 acres of land that is idle. There are few natural lakes or ponds in the county. Cuba and Rushford are the largest lakes, both man made. Cuba lake was constructed in 1858 as a feeder for the Rochester-Olean Canal and has a surface area of about 1600 acres. Since 1940 (Reed op. cit.) the Soil Conservation Service has helped many farmers and other land owners put soil saving practices into operation. The New York Conservation Department has developed game management areas on many parcels of State-owned land and encouraged better land use. During the summer of 1954 the five-hundredth farm pond was completed in Allegany Conty since the beginning of the Soil Conservation District. These ponds vary in size from the smallest of one-half acre to the largest, Andover Pond, which is about 60 acres in surface area. At 2260 ft. elevation near Alfred, N. Y., Mr. Foster Eddy owns a twenty-five acre pond where ducks and sandpipers are observed on migration. Other productive areas for water birds have been developed by the construction of Alma Pond (approx. 35 acres) and an adjacent area owned by Mr. Olin Brown of Wellsville. The Boandga Club pond, built in 1938 near Scio by the Empire Gas and Fuel Co. Ltd., is especially good for spring water fowl records.

Short cool summers and rather severe winters are characteristic of the climate in the county. The average annual precipitation at Angelica is 38.80 inches and at Alfred 37.22 inches, about one half coming from heavy showers. The average frostless period at Angelica is 125 days, Alfred 135 days, Andover 129 days and Bolivar 109 days. (Reed op. cit.).

Since the publication of the county bird list mentioned above several other observers have added to our knowledge of the bird life. C. Huber Watson of Andover has photographed birds for forty years, and in recent years has banded many birds. One interesting report was of a female Red-tailed Hawk banded in the summer of 1950 which was shot December 8 of that year at Mobile, Alabama. A male was banded at the same time but there has been no report of it. Many of Mr. Watson's pictures have appeared in Audubon publications, and are in their film library. The late Dr. Raymond Douglas, while he was at Houghton College (1924-1940) prepared a booklet, *Beginning Bird Study* (1925) for his Ornithology class which includes migration dates. The Biology Department at Alfred University keeps a record of bird migrants through that area. Prof. Gorden Ogden has been in charge for the past five years, and Dr. H. O. Burdick has records for fifteen years previous to that date. Mr. Paul Davie of Wellsville, and Dr. Robert Common of Andover have been collecting colored movies of local bird life and have many fine picture records. Stephen W. Eaton (1953) published an annotated list of birds seen in the Olean and Salamanca Quadrangles between Sept. 1949 and Jan. 1953. This includes a small part of the western fringe of Allegany County. My husband, Walter McMurtry, and I have collected data on birds from 1928-1931 and 1937-1954. Many records for the county have been published by The Buffalo Ornithological Society in *The Prothonotary* and some in the *Kingbird*.

The major man wrought changes in Allegany County have been reviewed and some of the consequent changes in bird life have been briefly stated. We might summarize this in saying that four major eras exist in this his-

torical review since the first arrival of the White Man. (1) the virgin forest, (2) the clearing of this forest for farming and lumber, (3) the county under maximum land use, (4) gradual abandonment of land and recent conservation effects.

Examples of a few species which illustrate changes in the bird life of the county, correlated with the man-made changes plus other factors which seem to have effected the birds of the northeastern states in general, follow:

Crow — apparently this species was rare or absent when the county was a primeval forest. The Raven appears to have been the original corvid. (Beers 1879). After the removal of much of the timber the crow began to replace the Raven (Place op. cit.) and it was no longer an abundant summer resident. The possibility of the Raven reinhabiting the area seems reasonable as there is a small breeding population south of the County in Pennsylvania (Todd 1940).

Cardinal — this species was not known to earlier students of birds (Eaton E. H. op. cit.). The first of recent records seems to be that of Dr. Douglas. He recorded the Cardinal near Houghton, N. Y. in 1925. It seemed to prefer the river valley, becoming a resident in Wellsville in 1941. Today it is found in many areas of the county below 1900 ft. elevation. The highest altitude record I have is Alfred (1730 ft.) where the first Cardinal was recorded at Alfred Station 5 or 6 years ago. They first wintered through in Alfred in 1953-54. Several nested in the spring of 1954 (H. O. Burdick). Andover (1653 ft.) did not have Cardinals as permanent residents until 1954 (C. H. Watson).

Tufted Titmouse — this also was not listed earlier (Eaton, E. H. op. cit.). While there were some earlier records (Douglas, 1928 Houghton, McMurtry 3/8/29, Wellsville) it did not remain long in a given situation until 1945 when one remained at Paul Davie's Sanctuary for some time in February. Then there was another lapse of time until October 12, 1952, when two were recorded by Schaffner and McMurtry near Shongo, N. Y. (*The Prothonotary,* December 1952). The next year, December 1953, two returned to Davie's sanctuary for the winter months. On February 28, 1954, one appeared in our yard remaining for a half hour. While they were not there during the summer months, two returned to the Davie sanctuary October 17, 1954 and were still there in March 1955. They are tame and will come to your hand for sunflower seeds. This pattern seems to be in keeping with the species advance in other parts of the state; a single Titmouse appeared in Ithaca May 26, 1951 and was still there the last week in September (*Kingbird,* Vol. 1, No. 4). Another first record in a southern county was reported by Bemont, Rising, Layman in the Triple Cities area 4/25/53 (*Kingbird,* Vol. 3, No. 2).

Pileated Woodpecker — this species is a good example of the change in the status of birds. While it was common in the early 1800's, Place in 1896 stated it was rare at that time. This situation continued for years, until now it is again becoming fairly common. It is even adapting itself to populated areas, as two have been seen often all winter in the village of Wellsville, and one has worked on an old tree in Alfred oblivious to the college students that pass daily (1954).

There are several others whose status has changed over the past fifty

years. E. H. Eaton (op. cit.) called the Warbling Vireo common, Red-headed Woodpecker fairly common, and the Vesper Sparrow abundant. Now the Warbling Vireo and the Vesper Sparrow are both uncommon, the Red-headed Woodpecker rare. To offset this, we have some birds on the increase. Brown Thrasher listed as uncommon (Eaton op. cit.) is fairly common in thorn apple habitat, and the Blue-winged Warbler and Olive-backed Thrush were not known. The Blue-winged Warbler has been found on slopes adjacent to the Genesee River near Wellsville (Prothonotary June 1953) and the Olive-backed Thrush is found on Alma Hill at an elevation of 2548 ft. where there is an outcrop of Olean Conglomerate. The Carolina Wren is another new permanent resident in this area.

In comparison with the check list prepared by Eaton in 1910, the present day list includes all of those mentioned (with the exception of the Passenger Pigeon) plus an additional 68. This makes today's total two hundred and eight. It is interesting to note that of the sixty-eight new birds, over 50% are ducks or birds that are normally found near water. This seems to indicate that the ponds and marshes recently made, are offering much needed habitat in our county, particularly on spring migration.

Following is the list of additional birds that we have seen in Allegany county: American Egret, Least Bittern, Whistling Swan, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, American Golden-Eye, White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Rough-legged Hawk, Osprey, Pheasant, Florida Gallinule, Coot, Hungarian Partridge, Ringed Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Hudsonian Curlew, Upland Sandpiper, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Black Tern, Wild Turkey, Barn Owl, Hawk Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin, Tufted Titmouse, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Olive-backed Thrush, Pipit, Starling, Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Parula Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-capped Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Yellow Palm Warbler, Cardinal, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Carolina Wren, Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-Winged Swallow and Red-necked (Holboell's) Grebe.

Gone forever from the Allegany County scene is the Passenger Pigeon. The last great nesting was at Bull's Run, Ceres, N. Y. (Eaton op. cit. account by Fred Eaton, Olean, N. Y.). The nesting tract was fourteen miles long, the egg laying began in April, with the height of nesting May 10, when thousands of nests could be found in hemlock, pine and hard wood trees. A large hemlock often held thirty to forty nests with eggs or young. Both parents took part in the incubating, one always remaining at the nest. The males left the nest early in the morning, the females left at eleven o'clock and at three o'clock there was another flight of red-breasted males. The rest of the story is known. Both the young birds and the adults were caught by thousands, wagon loads could be seen coming to Olean where they were shipped to New York by the carloads. A few continued to nest until 1872, but probably none after 1875. Thus ended the life cycle of a remarkable bird. While some other species may disappear due to changes

in habitat which come with increased human population, we hope that none will be lost solely through man's careless and selfish interests.

274 Scott Street, Wellsville, N. Y.

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THE TROPIC BIRD IN NEW YORK STATE

JOHN B. BELKNAP

On October 26, 1954, I found the remains of an immature Yellow-billed Tropic Bird *Phaethon lepturus,* (White-tailed Tropic Bird of the new AOU checklist) on the shore of Lake Ontario about midway between Port Ontario and Henderson Harbor. The precise location is Southwick's Beach in the town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County, N. Y. Since the bird had been dead for some time, it was possible to save only the head, tail, feet and wings, and these were presented to the State Museum in Albany. Identification was confirmed by Dr. Ralph S. Palmer, State Zoologist.

Without doubt the bird was carried north by the hurricane of October 15, which passed across the interior of the state, farther inland than is usual for storms of this type. Other records for the state, given below, can be attributed to hurricanes originating in the West Indies.

The earliest of these which has come to my attention, is given by Maynard (1881), who is quoted as follows: "A specimen of the Yellow-billed Tropic Bird, evidently a straggler, was, singularly enough, taken in the interior of New York State, about the middle of November 1870." More information is available concerning the bird secured by Rev. J. H. Langille in September 1876. Langille (1884) writes: "A young male of this species, rare even on the Gulf Coast, was brought to me alive in Orleans County in September 1876. It was picked up in a state of exhaustion in a clover field, after a heavy storm from the southwest." The storm was probably the hurrican of September 18, 1876 which, like the recent one of October 1954, passed across the interior of the state and would account for the presence of the tropic bird at an inland point.

The Langille specimen was at one time in the State Museum, and a picture of it appears in Eaton (1910). Other references may be found in Short (1896), and Farr (1900). Eaton, Short and Farr give the place of capture as Knowlesville. Short has the date as 1878 but is obviously referring to Langille's bird. Eaton, although mentioning Maynard (1881) in his references, seems to imply that it is the same record as that of Langille. Farr, on the other hand, first mentions the Orleans County specimen and goes on to say: "One other state record, see Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America."

This gives two records for the nineteenth century, but pertinent details for only one of them are now available. The only tropic birds known to have occurred in the state between 1876 and 1954 came in 1938 and are reported in Cruickshank (1942): "As a result of the devastating hurricane of 1938 specimens of this beautiful species were sprinkled over the northeast. Three birds were recorded in our region. One was seen flying over Jones Beach, L. I., Sept. 25 (Brennan, Tengwall, Russell), and two were picked up dead at Easthampton, L. I. in October. (Helmuth)"

To summarize, there appear to be six records for the state, consisting of two old records in the 1870s, three birds found dead, and one sight observation. As already noted, the appearance of the tropic bird in the north is usually associated with hurricanes, this type of storm being well known for its ability to deposit southern oceanic birds far north of their normal range.

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Ed. Note: Two other Yellow-billed Tropic Birds were found after Hurricane Hazel 1954 — one at Staunton, Va., and one near Gettysburg, Pa. Audubon Field Notes, Vol. 9, No. 1.

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REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER THROUGH MARCH

Throughout the State generally, it has been a Gray Shrike - Chickadee - Pine Grosbeak - Evening Grosbeak - Snow Bunting winter. The smaller winter finches were few in number, on the whole, but certain species were common in restricted areas. Goldfinches were common in the Finger Lakes; Redpolls common in the Oneida Basin, St. Lawrence, Champlain Valley and Mohawk-Hudson regions; both Crossbills were abundant until late January on Long Island. Evening Grosbeaks left breeding areas in the Adirondacks in late September and were present during the winter in moderate numbers elsewhere.

The Snowy Owl appeared in small numbers in areas bordering the larger inland lakes and Long Island. Rough-legged Hawks and Short-eared Owls were low in numbers reflecting a generally low field mouse population.

Kinglets, Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Tree Sparrows and Juncos were scarce or absent in most areas.

Meadowlarks, Mourning Doves, Flickers and a few Myrtle Warblers wintered successfully in upstate New York despite the severity of the winter.

The blackbird migration started in the lower Hudson Valley on February 16 and by March 14 they had reached Plattsburg. Grackles appeared to precede the Red-wings by a few days in several areas.

Phoebes appeared in Rockland County on March 10, the Binghamton area March 19, near Syracuse March 8 and near Batavia March 30. Tree Swallows wintered on Long Island and were first seen in Rockland County on March 19, near Binghamton March 20 and near Syracuse March 12.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

The 1954-55 winter was closer to normal than most. Neither temperatures nor snowfall were such as to affect our winter bird populations very much. The total of 91 species and subspecies reported in January and February compares with 91 for January alone in 1954, when a very mild December encouraged many half-hardy species to stay over. Our share of the Federation waterfowl census was taken on January 16, and found most of our inland waters solidly frozen. Outstanding for the period was the unprecedented flight of Gray Shrikes, which was almost too great to chronicle.

LOONS — DUCKS: Grebes reported during the winter months included two Red-necked and one Pied-billed counted on January 16 during the waterfowl census. Single cormorants were found December 19 (Grand Island, Coggeshalls) and February 26 (Dunkirk, Elderkin). Whistling Swans arrived a bit early (2 Grand Island and 6 Oak Orchard on March 12) and within a week were represented on almost every lake in the territory; on the 19th and 20th from 1500 to 3000 were on Lake Chautauqua, largest number ever reported here. One Snow Goose was among the 1200 Canada Geese at Oak Orchard March 12 (Beardslee) and a Blue Goose joined them the 15th

(Woldman). The McCanns estimated 8500 Canada Geese in the Oak Orchard area on the 20th; peak numbers were not present until after April 1. Wood Ducks were first reported on March 13 at East Mud Lake by Braunberns and at Wellsville by McMurtry. No observer reported as high a Pintail peak at Wolcottsville as last year, the high estimate of 2000 (March 12, Mitchell) comparing with 5000 a year earlier. Unusually large numbers of Canvasback wintered on the upper Niagara, both our count January 16 and the aerial count January 20 being very close to 11000. All three scoters were reported in January, 187 White-winged on the 16th (mostly on Lake Ontario), and single Surf and American on the 1st, from Buffalo harbor and Niagara Falls respectively. Mitchell et al reported a King Eider from the upper river December 18.

HAWKS — OWLS: Braunberns observed a Turkey Vulture on March 13 at East Mud Lake. A wintering Red-shouldered Hawk, a rarity here, was seen north of Hamburg February 20 (Faul et al), and Mrs. McMurtry reported a migrant at Wellsville March 13. Seven Turkeys were seen at Bone Run on February 13 (Elderkins) and two groups at Shongo in mid-March (McMurtry). Mrs. McMurtry also found a Killdeer March 6 and reported a late March Woodcock nest at Standard. Glaucous, Iceland, and Kumlien's Gulls were available throughout the winter on the river, chiefly near the Falls. More records of wintering Mourning Doves than usual, and larger flocks, were reported. Only seven Snowy Owl reports are at hand for the winter, considerably below par.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Wintering Kingfishers were reported from Wellsville by McMurtry, and Olean by Eaton. Two Red-bellied Woodpeckers, one Red-headed Woodpecker, and several Flickers stayed over with us. Three good-sized flocks of Prairie Horned Larks seen north of Oak Orchard January 16 (Beardslee) were probably too early for migrants. Crows returned to Wellsville February 19 (McMurtry) and to Olean the 22nd (Eaton). A Brown-capped Chickadee was seen at West Falls January 2 by Mitchell. K. McCann & Dietrich found a Phoebe at Oak Orchard March 30; Brockner noted one there the same day, and McMurtry one at Wellsville the 31st. Carolina Wrens were reported from three places in December, four in January, and five in February. A Catbird wintered at a Williamsville feeding station. Robins were common in Buffalo by March 11 and at Olean by the 12th. Bluebirds were seen at Hamburg and Wellsville on the 10th. The greatest influx of Gray Shrikes ever was reported by all observers. It lasted until the fore part of March; after the 13th Loggerheads began to arrive. Parker reported the first Pipits — 18 at Jamestown on March 10.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: A Myrtle Warbler wintered at Hamburg (Bacon). There seemed to be more Meadowlark records than usual, with one flock of 16 being reported from Kuckville (Beardslee). Grackles arrived March 4 (McMurtry) and Red-wings the 6th (100 at Oak Orchard, Brockner). Mrs. McMurtry found Purple Finches in December, February, and March, and Eaton watched one in the company of two Pine Grosbeaks eating crab apples. Evening Grosbeaks were widely distributed, largest flocks apparently having visited Angelica, Independence, Alfred, Jamestown, and Hamburg. Mitchell and Almendinger found an early Towhee at Derby on March 19, and Brockner an early Vesper Sparrow at Shelby March 27. Wintering White-throated Sparrows were reported from Castile (Thompson) Hamburg (Bacon), and Buffalo (Fisk). The season saw few longspurs, and most of our Snow Bunting records were based upon February observations.

132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore 17, N. Y.

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HARRY VANBEURDEN

The height of the winter in our region was reached in early February when low temperatures and ice formation drove many waterfowl off inland bodies of water into the open waters of Lake Ontario. Migration lagged several weeks behind the very early precedents set in February and March of 1954; it was not up to par even in comparison with a normal year. However, several interesting late stragglers were noted in December.

LOONS — DUCKS: A Green-winged Teal was noted at Charlotte on the late date of Dec. 23. A Harlequin Duck was noted at Webster Beach State Park on Jan. 23 by a party of 10 observers. The usual wintering waterfowl were observed. Our Winter Waterfowl Census of Jan. 15-23 netted 17 species and 4009 individual Grebes, Ducks and Coot. Whistling Swan — more than usual on migration in March. Snow Goose — 2 birds in Monroe County in March. Europeon Teal — 1 on March 20 at Hamlin State Park, seen by 5 observers. American Bittern — 1 on Dec. 26 at Braddock's Bay.

HAWKS — OWLS: Goshawk — 6 birds in March; 5 on March 20 on migration at Braddock's Bay. Duck Hawk and Pigeon Hawk were reported in March. Golden Eagle — 1 on March 19, 1 on March 24; migrating at Braddock's Bay. Virginia Rail — reported in Dec., Feb., and March from Ling Road; also once in Dec. from Braddock's Bay. At least 2 individuals wintered at Ling Road. Several late shorebirds were noted: Sanderling, 1 Dec. 18, Manitou; White-rumped Sandpiper, 1 Dec. 4, Manitou; Red-backed Sandpiper, 1 Dec. 23, Ling Road. A very unusual record of 1 Red Phalarope at Oklahoma Beach on Jan. 16 was observed by Listman, Bieber, and VanBeurden.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The Tufted Titmouse has definitely increased in our area, as evidenced by the number of feeding station reports. Regular reports of Red-bellied Woodpecker were received during the winter from the Genesee River valley, where they are resident. Long-billed Marsh Wren was noted in Dec. and March at Braddock's Bay. Our Christmas Census netted 77 species on Dec. 26. Among these were 1 Bluebird and 1 Hermit Thrush. Cedar Waxwing — an unusual flight of these birds was noted on the weekend of Feb. 26 when 600 were observed at Rose's Marsh. Northern Horned Lark — only 1 bird reported. Pipit — an early migrant seen on March 6th.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Myrtle Warblers wintered in small numbers at Durand-Eastman Park as usual. Yellow-throat — 1 in Dec. at the Flynn Road dump and 1 in Feb. at Ling Road marsh.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Pine Grosbeaks, Redpolls, and Snow Buntings were present in good numbers. A flock of 4000 Snow Buntings in Mendon was reported during Jan. Evening Grosbeak reappeared for the first time Since Dec. on March 28. A Hoary Redpoll was seen on Dec. 23 near Pultneyville by the Kemnitzers. Oregon Junco — 2 reports of this type: 1 on Dec. 29 at Sodus Bay and 1 on Jan. 15 on the East Lakeshore. A Fox Sparrow was observed in Durand Park in late Dec. and early Jan.

246 Tremont Street, Rochester 8, New York

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

Sally F. Hoyt

The weather for Dec., Jan., Feb. and March was generally cold, especially in late January and early February. While there were no heavy snows in the Finger Lakes, snow remained on the ground almost constantly except along the Penna. line, and light snows were frequent. For example, at Ithaca, it snowed or rained 16 of the 28th days in February, and precipitation was an inch above normal. All small lakes and ponds were frozen over, as was Montezuma. The larger lakes had open areas, where waterfowl concentrated. All observers, however, reported that natural food seemed plentiful and except following heavy snow, feeding stations were not patronized as much as expected.

LOONS — DUCKS: Reports of Common Loons were infrequent. A Red-throated Loon was seen on Seneca Lake near Sampson 2/6 (Munford). A few Pied-billed Grebes were seen on the larger lakes and one on the Chemung River 1/22 (K. Fudge). A Great Blue Heron at Wellsburg 1/8 (A. Fudge et al) and another was found dead south of Newfield, the talons of an equally dead Screech Owl locked in its neck, on Jan. 31, the two specimens being brought to Cornell.

4 Whistling Swans spent the week of 3/20 at Montezuma (Smith), while the

population of Canada Geese at the Refuge build up from 3000 on March 19 to approximately 9000 the last week in March. At least this many were on Cayuga near King Ferry in early April.

A small flock of dabbling ducks (mostly Blacks) wintered along the Chemung at Elmira, until freezing conditions forced them to move farther south to open water. One male Baldpate appeared on Brick Pond, Elmira on 3/14 (K. Fudge) and also reported from Waterloo (Walker). 370 Pintails were seen in flooded land north of Montezuma on 3/12 by W. Thurber. 4 Green-winged Teal at Montezuma on 3/19 (Thurber) were rather early. Redheads were in good numbers all winter on Seneca and Keuka, fewer on Cayuga, and the other common diving ducks were in sizeable rafts on Seneca and Cayuga, although Golden-eyes seemed somewhat down in numbers. Buffle-heads were reported as more common on Keuka than usual (Guthrie), and 20 were seen at Montezuma on 1/22 (Ward). There were fewer reports of Scoters this winter, although 6 American Scoters were seen on Seneca 2/6 by the Munfords.

Mergansers seemed scarce in entire Ithaca area, and also on Keuka (Guthrie).

HAWKS — OWLS: A Goshawk was again reported near Elmira (Catlin and Andrus) on 12/4, and another in January near Waterloo (Munford, Walker). Reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks were fairly common. A Red-tailed wintered near Avoca (Atwood, Carter), and they were common all winter at Waterloo (Walker). One light phase Red-tail at the Refuge. 2 Bald Eagles were seen 2/17 at the Refuge (Ward) and one on edge of nest on 3/19 (Thurber, Walker). A Marsh Hawk came down to a banding trap at Etna 1/26 (Hoyt). Sparrow Hawks were observed in "mating flight" near nesting site at Waterloo on 3/7 (Walker). A Pigeon Hawk near Avoca on 1/17 is of interest (Atwood).

Ruffed Grouse seem to be making a comeback in the area west of Waterloo.

Coots were numerous on Seneca and Cayuga, and had increased in numbers this year on Keuka.

Woodcocks arrived on schedule throughout the area, except in Waterloo area, where Walker reports them scarce. Wilson's Snipe reported at Horseheads Marsh on 3/29 (Andrus).

One Glaucous Gull wintered on Cayuga and was reported from 1/1 until 3/10. The less common Iceland Gull was also reported several times during the period. Great Black-backed Gulls were down in numbers on Keuka (Guthrie) but up to 25 were counted on Cayuga at one time by Walker. Ring-bills were more common than Herrings on Seneca in late February (Kellogg). Bonaparte's Gull on Cayuga 1/4 (Dunham).

Mourning Doves were common winter residents. 40 fed regularly at Sapsucker Woods sanctuary (Lane), 20 were reported near Keuka Park in January by Guthrie, on 1/9 they fed in numbers in the Welles Cornfield near Elmira, and smaller numbers were reported west of Geneva (Dryer) and in Watkins Glen area (Brubaker).

No real Snowy Owl invasion, but reported 12/8 and 2/26 near Geneva (Dryer), 1/22 at Aurora (Logan), 1/30 south of Geneva (Lerch) and 1/14 near Dresden (Shattuck). 3 Long-eared Owls on 1/1 north of Horseheads (Samson) and one at Geneva 3/30 (McCarthy and Wheeler). The week of March 30, 4 Short-eared Owls were seen hunting at the Refuge (Smith). An injured Saw-whet Owl was picked up on Cornell Campus 3/2, and has recovered.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Wintering Flickers were reported from all parts of the Region. In the Ithaca area two different pairs of Pileated Woodpeckers were coming to feeders for suet. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen on the January 1 census at Elmira (Rowley). A Phoebe was also reported at Elmira on 1/1 at mouth of Sing Sing Creek (Al Fudge). Mrs. Welles reports from Elmira that flocks of Horned Larks this year contained mostly Northern whereas in other years Prairies have been more common.

Several areas reported that Tree Swallows were slow in returning, with very few seen by 4/1. Blue Jays are increasing in northern Seneca Co., with a first report for one at a Clifton Springs feeder (Ontario Co.) on 2/4 (Munford). Around Ithaca they remain common at winter feeders.

Black-capped Chickadees were very abundant, and reports of Brown-caps came in from a half-dozen areas in the region, including Big Flats, Bath, Auburn and Ithaca. None, however, around Geneva. Tufted Titmice are increasing along southern part of the Region, and from Wellesburg to west of Elmira, along Chemung

River, every feeder has its pair (Welles). At Montour Falls a pair remained at Mrs. LaTourette's station. Red-breasted Nuthatches were more common than usual, as were Brown Creepers in some sections, although not around Ithaca. Winter Wrens seemed scarce (Guthrie, Hoyt). Two different observers, neither knowing of the other, reported to me a Bewick's Wren near the covered bridge in Newfield, in Feb. and in March. Mrs. Betzer said that it came to her feeder there, along with 2 Carolinas. A Carolina also was reported at Auburn (DaBoll) and at Geneva (Mali).

A Mockingbird spent the winter at Branchport, and one was reported in Ithaca on 1/4 (Bartlett). In early February a Catbird occurred on University Ave. in Ithaca (Wheeler). There were scattered reports of wintering Robins, especially around Elmira, but none at Avoca this year. Golden-crowned Kinglet reports were scarce. Cedar Waxwings were abundant, in large flocks, often appearing mixed with Pine Grosbeaks or Evening Grosbeaks. Northern Shrikes were reported from all sections (I had 4 individuals at my feeding station). One was reported as singing at Keuka Park on 3/20 (Guthrie). A Migrant Shrike was reported on 3/20 to Thurber by another observer, at Montezuma.

WARBLERS — VIREOS: A Pine Warbler was seen first at Stanley Woods near Elmira 2/23 by Harvey and Fudge. Other observers saw it at same place, on later dates, to 3/13. In December and January, a Myrtle Warbler visited the Charles Sibley's feeder near Ithaca.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Meadowlarks wintered in Elmira area. Enormous flocks of Blackbirds covered the sky near Millport at 1730 on 3/5 (Mrs. Marsh) and large flocks flew off Montezuma Refuge at daybreak 3/26 (Walker). 1000 Rusties were soon on Powderly Road, Waterloo 3/10 (Walker) and individual Rusties visited feeders in Etna in December (Hoyt), in Avoca in January (Atwood). A Grackle wintered at Elmira (Jayne), and Cowbird flocks found food for winter existence by a pigpen near Elmira, and at the banding station in Etna (Hoyt), where 30 were banded.

Cardinals seem established at Avoca and are increasing around Elmira.

Just south of my region, 2 Baltimore Orioles occurred through December at the feeder of Frances Biles, in Athens, Pa., eating suet, cookies and Tokay grapes.

Evening Grosbeaks occurred spottily throughout the region, concentrating in rather small flocks at certain feeding stations, not at all in the numbers of three years ago. Males considerably outnumbered females. 120 banded at Etna.

Purple Finches were very scarce, as were Pine Siskins. A flock of 40 on Golf Course near Ithaca on 3/24 probably represented migrants (Dilger). Goldfinches, however, were plentiful everywhere. Pine Grosbeaks made the news everywhere, occurring in much larger flocks than they usually do, and coming right into cities and villages to feed on lawns and hedges. They seemed to like maple buds. A flock of 60 was seen at Dryden on 2/19 (Dunham). Crossbills, reported in the early fall, must have moved on out of the region, as only scattered reports came in during the winter.

There were at least two sight reports of Pink-sided Juncos, but with the difficulty of identification of these and hybrids with Slate-colored and western forms, probably specimens should be taken for positive identification. Tree Sparrows were reported as scarce and spotty in most areas, but I banded 170 at Etna. A Field Sparrow was seen on 1/2 at Branchport (R. Guthrie). A White-crowned wintered at Geneva 2/17 (Dryer and Ward) and White-throats at Branchport 1/2 (R. Guthrie) and at Avoca 1/30 (Carter). All observers reported Lapland Longspurs as scarce, although they were seen commonly near Ithaca in early fall. Snow Buntings were present in fairly large flocks at various locations.

Redpolls were late in putting in an appearance, but small flocks were reported from Avoca, Keuka Park, Aurora and near Ithaca in February.

Avianna, Etna, N. Y.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

December was a relatively mild month in the Susquehanna Region. There was little snow and few really cold days. The Christmas Census was run with no snow on the ground for the first time in four years. January

and February were quite different. There were several heavy snowfalls and bitter cold weather came by the week. The first week or so of March brought several pleasant warm days and promise of an early spring, but the latter part of the month changed all that, bringing more snow and weather cold enough to almost completely freeze over many of the ponds and marshes which had been completely thawed earlier.

LOONS — DUCKS: The only Horned Grebes reported during the winter months were one at Deposit 12/5 (Wilson), 2 at the south end of Skaneateles Lake 1/1 (Axtell) and 6 on Otsego Lake 12/29 (Will) any or all of which could have been late migrants rather than wintering birds. Wintering Pied-billed Grebes were reported from Unadilla (Wisner), Binghamton (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club) and one at the south end of Skaneateles Lake 1/1 (Axtell). The first migrant was noted at Boland's Marsh near Binghamton 3/17 (Bemont).

A Great Blue Heron was seen at Cortland 1/1 (Axtell) and another 1/24 at Unadilla (Wisner). The next ones were 3 at Deposit 3/24 (Wilson), clearly migrants.

The last Canada Geese reported last fall were 4 at Norwich 12/1 (R. White) and the first spring migrants, 3 at Afton 3/6 (Hannans).

A Baldpate was found at Chenango Valley State Park 1/1 on our Christmas Census (Sheffields). Four were seen in the same area 1/15 and single birds 1/16 and 1/23 but no more until 3/6 (TCNC). The last Ring-necked Ducks were 6 on 12/5 at Deposit (Wilson) and the first this spring were 2 at Boland's Marsh 3/5 (Saunders). Several large flocks were noted in Binghamton and at Whitney Point Dam up to 3/20 (TCNC). Norwich was the only other area to produce any and there not until 3/26 (R. White). 2 Redheads and four Hooded Mergansers 12/5 at Deposit (Wilson) and 2 Old Squaws 12/29 on Otsego Lake (Will) were last records for their species. Other first records were Pintail 3/12 and Green-winged Teal and Wood Duck 3/20 at Whitney Point (TCNC), Canvasback 2/13 at Chenango Forks (Doren, Fessenden), Greater Scaup 3/22 at Boland's Marsh (Bemont), Am. Goldeneye 2/26 at Deposit (Wilson) and Binghamton (Sheffields), Lesser Scaup 3/26, and Bufflehead 3/27 and Redhead 3/30 at Norwich (R. & S. White).

Black Ducks, Mallards and Am. Mergansers were present all winter in their normal small numbers.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen at Deposit on 3/31 (Wilson).

A few reports were received of wintering Cooper's, Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks. Sparrowhawks were noted quite frequently, as usual. The first Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Gracie in Cortland Co. 3/2 (Thurber) and the first Red-shouldered Hawk was at Boland's Marsh 3/22 (Sheffields). A Bald Eagle was at Deposit 2/21 (Wilson).

Two Coot were seen 12/5 at Deposit and no more until 3/20 when one was at Whitney Point Dam (TCNC). The earliest Killdeer reported was at Oxford 2/22 (A. J. Stratton). The only report of wintering Mourning Doves was one at Binghamton 1/1 (TCNC). The first migrants noted were two at Preble 3/12 (Thurber).

A Snowy Owl was seen sitting on a phone pole east of South New Berlin 1/26 (R. White) and another was seen west of Cortland 3/11 (Thurber). A Barred Owl was heard at Chenango Valley State Park the morning of 1/1 (Bemont, Layman).

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: Phoebes have been especially late this spring. The only one reported up to the end of March was at Bainbridge 3/19 (E. J. Smith). A flock of Horned Larks numbering in the thousands was at Cortland 3/31 (Thurber). Tree Swallows were more than a week early at Binghamton. Two were at Boland's Marsh 3/20 (Sheffields) and they have been seen several times since, but they have been absent from all other areas so far.

One of the more interesting events of the winter was the appearance of a few Brown-capped Chickadees. The two already reported at a feeder in Hillcrest have been daily customers ever since (Easton). It has been impossible to check on the 6 previously reported at Norwich but 2 were found at Sherbourne early in December and they have been present all winter (R. White). In addition a single individual was seen 12/1 at South New Berlin (S. White), another 1/1 and 1/2 at Cortland (R. & H. Axtell) and another 12/10 thru 12/13 at Unadilla (Wisner, Atkinson). The first Tufted Titmouse in Unadilla since 1952 was seen 12/1 (Wisner).

There were several reports of wintering Robins. They started to be seen regularly 3/4 all over the region and that day 2 flocks of about a dozen each were seen at Oxford (Stratton). They were not really common until 3/20 in Binghamton and

Deposit and at the end of March were still being seen primarily in large migrating flocks. The first Bluebird reported was at Deposit 3/2 (Wilson).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were present in normal numbers until the end of January in Binghamton and a little later in Deposit, but since then there have been none reported from the whole region. One Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen at Endicott 3/30 (Carter) — early, but not a record.

Gray Shrikes have been reported almost as frequently this year as last, but were more scattered. A Migrant Shrike was seen east of Cincinnatus in Cortland Co. 3/18 (Thurber).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: 2 Myrtle Warblers were seen at Chenango Valley State Park 1/23 (Bemond, M. Sheffield). One was seen at the same place 2/13 (Hannans). A Yellowthroat was seen 12/1 in Binghamton (Yereckey).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Wintering Meadowlarks were seen at Norwich 1/10 (R. White) and a flock of 9 was seen at Chenango Valley State Park 2/13 (Hannans). The first migrants were at Binghamton, Bainbridge and Deposit 3/12. There were no reports of wintering Redwings. The first reported were 9 at Whitney Point 2/27 (TCNC). They were common in most places after 3/4 but no females were seen until 3/17.

A Rusty Blackbird was seen at Unadilla 1/6 (Wisner) and has been seen regularly since. Another was seen 1/1 at Cortland (Axtell). 8 Cowbirds, 6 males and 2 females, were seen at Cortland 1/1 (Axtell) and another was a regular customer at a feeder in Binghamton most of the winter (Shanley). The first migrant was noted at Binghamton 3/17 (Bemont).

Evening and Pine Grosbeaks have both been as common as at any time in the last four years, everywhere except Deposit where a single flock of each was recorded once all winter. Purple Finches, on the other hand, were completely absent from all reports all winter. Siskins have also been absent and Redpolls and Goldfinches have been uncommon.

A late Red-eyed Towhee was seen 12/16 at Deposit (Wilson). A White-crowned Sparrow was seen at a feeder in Binghamton regularly thru December and January (Davis) and a White-throated Sparrow was seen in Binghamton 1/1 (TCNC). The first recorded Fox Sparrow was at Deposit 3/11 (Wilson). The first of the migrant Song Sparrows was at Unadilla 2/28 (Wisner). One was heard singing 3/8 when the temperature was 10 degrees F (Bemont). Snow Buntings have been seen fairly frequently. The largest single flock was made up of over 300 birds and seen near Norwich 3/4 (R. White).

R. D. #3, Binghamton, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

The first two weeks of Dec. were relatively mild with no sharp cold snaps but progressive freezing over of local marshes. The week prior to Christmas brought severe cold weather, freezing over Lake Oneida in 3 days. A mild spell (12/27 - 1/8) followed, but from 1/9 - 2/8 the weather was consistently cold, most of the time far below freezing and only occasionally rising as high as 32 degrees. 2/8 - 2/9 had a brief thaw, but this terminated on the 10th with a severe cold spell lasting until the 17th. A pronounced thaw then developed and extended from 2/18 - 3/2. On 3/4 - 3/5 a sleet storm crystallized the landscape. However, the week of 3/8 - 3/14 more than compensated for the previous cold; continuous warm weather brought hordes of migrants into the area. The next 2 weeks were primarily intermittent warm weather alternating with longer snow flurries and freeze-ups. On 3/26 - 3/28, a 22" snow, which rapidly melted starting 3/29, covered the area. However, enough snow remained into April as a mute and chilly remembrance of a cold and tempestuous winter.

The winter was noteworthy primarily for the following increases or decreases: 1.) the marked increase in wintering accipiters, 2.) the sharp reduction in "mouse" hawks (Red-tail, Rough-leg, Harrier, Kestrel) and the low owl counts, 3.) the flight of white-winged gulls along the Oswego River

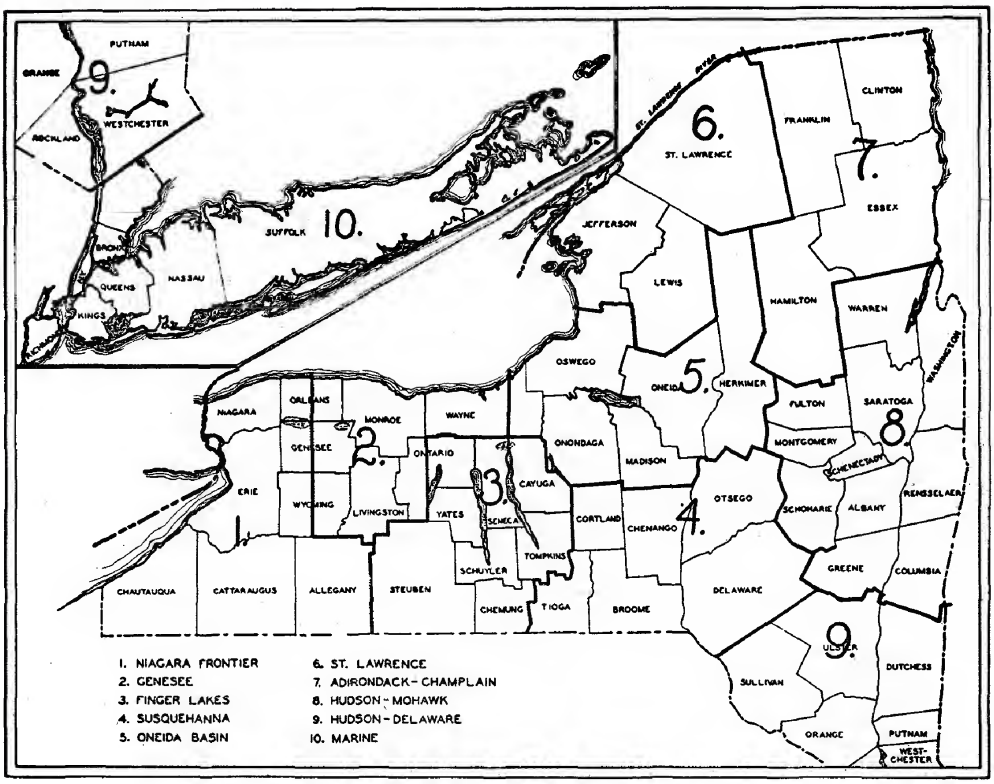
(even better than last year's which was considered very good), 4.) the duplication of last year's shrike flight, 5.) the marked scarcity of Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers, and 6.) the almost spectacular show of winter finches.

LOONS — DUCKS: Last Common Loon on 12/19 Oneida Lake; again no wintering records. Horned Grebe — a few wintered at Oswego Harbor and Skaneateles Lake. Pied-billed Grebe — 3 successfully wintered in a small patch of open water on the Oswego River at Minetto. Great Blue Heron — 3 on 12/26; 1 on 12/27 at Onondaga Lake is last record. Canada Goose — 1st birst back at Syracuse on 3/10 (about 2 wks. late). For wintering duck populations, see Waterfowl Census Report. Green-winged Teal — 3 on 3/11 at Clay Swamp, northwest of Syracuse, are a few days early, but the 3 Blue-winged Teal on 3/12 at the same place are about 10 days early. The spell of warm weather (3/8 - 3/14) brought many marsh ducks into the area, but the following 2 weeks' weather forced the majority of them south again. Baldpate — 1 male on 2/27 at Oswego is 1st date. Wood Duck — 2 Dec. records (4 on 12/12 at Clay Swamp, 1 male on 12/19 at Fulton); arrival date is 1 pair on 3/12 at Onondaga Valley. In Feb. the Bufflehead, Canvasback, and Redhead counts at Oswego Harbor went up to 2- or 3x the **Regional** totals of the Jan. Waterfowl Census. Harlequin Duck — 1 adult male watched for 30 min. at 200 yds. with 30x BALscope at Oswego Harbor on 2/20; strangely enough, the bird was not about the rock breakwaters but feeding at the base of a piling in a quiet stretch of the harbor (Wrangell, Scheider). Surf Scoter — 1 female on 3/6, Oswego Harbor (Paquette, Wayland-Smith). Hooded Merganser — 2 wintering at Minetto; good spring flight (fairly common), starting with the warm spell in 2nd week of March.

HAWKS — OWLS: All accipiters reported in increased numbers — Goshawk — 3 reports, Sharp-shin — 5 reports (Dec. thru Feb.) where usually none or occasionally one. Cooper's — 17 birds reported, about 3x the usual winter quota. Red-tail — markedly reduced numbers. Rough-leg — only 6 birds reported all winter; interestingly enough, 2 were late Feb.-early March reports (Mathis, Mrs. Curtis) from the hill country south of Syracuse, an area the Rough-leg usually does not frequent. Bald Eagle — singles reported from Oneida Lake (Dec.), Oswego (3/2), and Delta Lake (March). Dr. W. R. Spofford located an active (bird incubating) Bald Eagle nest along Lake Ontario on 3/26. Harrier — 1 immature male on 12/12 at Clay Swamp; **not one** other winter report. Kestrel — like Red-tail, severely reduced in numbers (1-2 per field trip instead of usual 4-6). Woodcock — 1 on 3/20 at Otisco Lake, west side, is early. White-winged gulls — better flight than '53-'54 which was considered very good. Single high count was 7 (2 Glaucous, 4 Iceland, 1 Kumlien's) on 1/30 along Oswego and Seneca Rivers and Oswego Harbor. Other gulls — during and following the severe cold spell of Jan., the gull population along Oswego River axis (Phoenix to Oswego) dropped from the usual 5000 to 6000 to less than 1500. Surprisingly enough, when the numbers began to build up in late Feb., the Ring-bill Herring ratio was approximately 1:1 instead of the usual 1:10. Snowly Owl — the promise of a flight, which the 4 Nov. records gave, did not materialize; 1 in early Dec. near Syracuse and 1 on 2/12 at Westernville (Mrs. May) are the only subsequent records. Long-eared Owls — only 2 winter records. **No** Short-eared Owls reported for **entire** period.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: At least 6 different Kingfishers successfully wintered in the Region (normally 1-2 attempt it, but do not last). Red-bellied Woodpecker — 1 male reported until 12/26 in tract of dead timber just SW of Syracuse (L. Chamberlaine). Phoebe — 1st reported on 3/8 near Van Buren, west of Syracuse. Horned Larks — a scarce bird this winter; on 2/20, marked flight of these birds flying singly east along Lake Ontario. Tree Swallow — 2 on 3/12 at Clay Swamp is a record first date. Black-capped Chickadee — flocks up to 50 throughout winter, but sudden, sharp drop in numbers in latter half of March. Brown-capped Chickadee — 5-6 birds reported wintering near the Hahn residence on the Black River in NE Oneida County (fide Paquette, Ackley, Mrs. Aspinwall). Tufted Titmouse — 1 reported from several local feeders and by several birders in Feb. in Valley Drive section of Syracuse. Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers— very, very scarce all winter; this appears to be a Region-wide condition as practically all correspondents have commented on this scarcity. Red-breasted Nuthatch — single individuals wintering at 5-6 places in Oneida and Onondaga Counties. Carolina Wren — 1 in full song on 3/20 at S. Onondaga; apparently the bird present there last June successfully wintered despite the severity of the weather. Brown Thrasher

REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2

— 1 on 12/20 at Clark Reservation (Mr. & Mrs. Burdick). Hermit Thrust — 1 on 12/12 at Syracuse (Wrangell) as record last date. Bluebird — 1 on 2/20 at Phoenix, 1st arrival. Gray Shrike — 1-2 featured on every winter field trip; a marked increase in numbers reported in 2nd week of March may represent a return flight or increased numbers of observers dured out-of-doors by warm weather.

WARBLERS — FRINGILLIDS: Myrtle Warbler — 1 at south side (Syracuse) feeding station (L. Chamberlaine) from 12/4 to 12/11 (trapped & banded). Meadowlarks were the only wintering icterids, and even these were scarce. The **winter finch show:** in contrast to last year's dismal winter finch counts, the '54-'55 finch flight was the highlight of the winter season. Evening Grosbeak reports were predominantly from Oneida County (numerous flocks of 10-40 birds), with smaller numbers south and west of, and in, Syracuse — many still present at end of period. Purple Finches — not **one** winter report, which is a complete reversal of last year's numbers. Pine Grosbeaks were widely reported, but greatest number of reports and quantity of birds came from the hill country south of Syracuse, and from northern Oneida Co. (the two terrains are remarkably similar). Despite increased field work, there are no further reports of these birds after the end of Feb. Redpolls — after the last week in Dec., these birds literally flooded the open fields and birch copses of the area; flocks up to 300 reported; still present at end of period. Pine Siskins — like the Purple Finches, completely absent despite the abundant presence of their winter companions, the Redpolls. Junco —present only as singles or small

parties of 2-4 birds; no marked flocks even at the end of March. Tree Sparrow — no large wintering flocks but every trip produced at least 15 or 20. White-throated and Swamp Sparrows — usual few wintered, mostly in protected gullies south of Syracuse. Lapland Longspur — 1 on 12/26 at Bridgeport, 1 on 3/13 at Clay Swamp are the only period records. Snow Buntings — for sheer numbers, this winter finch stole the show; usual flocks ranged from 100-300 with occasional flock of 500-1500 reported; present to end of period in numbers, which is unusual since most go north in mid-March.

Corrigenda to Regional Report in Vol. IV, No. 4, p. 110 — Stilt Sandpiper, 1 on 9/11, Sylvan Beach; p. 111 — Shrike total should be 6 (3 unidentified to species).

151 Seventh North St., Syracuse 8, N. Y.

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

Frank A. Clinch

The weather was near normal, although there were periods of very cold temperatures followed by mild spells. Many of the March migrants were first reported earlier than most years. A newspaper report tells of ducks, geese, grackles and redwings feeding on unharvested corn after the heavy snowfall of March 26. Many fields of corn were not entirely harvested because of the frequent and heavy rains last fall which made the ground too soft for machinery.

LOONS — DUCKS: A Red-throated Loon was found alive beside the road near Evans Mills on Dec. 21 (Belknap). A Loon was heard, but not seen near Henderson in the middle of January. An immature Pied-billed Grebe was found on land in the City of Watertown on Dec. 12. It seemed healthy, but almost too young to fly and did not live long. There were several records of Canada Geese, the first at Henderson Harbor March 12, and about 200 at Perch Lake the last of the month. Two Whistling Swans were noted at Sackets Harbor March 24, one in Black River near Herrings late in the month and three at Perch Lake April 1. They are sometimes along the eastern part of Lake Ontario, in the spring and fall, but not often away from the lake. There probably are more Black Ducks in this region in winter than the 30 recorded at the time of the January Waterfowl Census might indicate. Pintails were first seen March 15 and became common by the end of the month. Scaup Ducks were common along the shore of Lake Ontario in late March. A male Hooded Merganser was found in the river at Watertown in late December and again in the middle of February. Several were seen in other places late in March.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen near Pillar Point March 12 (J. Blake). Marsh Hawks were unusually numerous in March (Belknap). Few Rough-legged Hawks reported, one early in December and one late in March. Belknap reports 21 Snowy Owls in Jefferson with some duplication probable. One was still present near Philadelphia April 1. A Barred Owl spent New Year's Day in a tree in Watertown and one was seen Feb. 2 in Antwerp. Saw-whet Owls appeared in Potsdam and in Canton (L. Blake). A few Great Black-backed Gulls were seen this winter.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Horned Larks first appeared in the middle of February and were common in March. The Pileated Woodpeckers are said to be quite numerous around Potsdam and one of them chisled out a nice big hole in a tree in Potsdam (L. Blake). J. Wilson saw ten Ravens near High Falls, St. Lawrence Co. on Feb. 23, but found no evidence of their nesting there. He also says that the Canada Jays are increasing in the same section. Several reports indicate that Shrikes were more common than usual this winter. Starlings were more numerous than usual in Potsdam.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: A female Cardinal was seen near Henderson late in March (Belknap). Belknap reports that Evening Grosbeaks were scarce, but they were frequently seen in Watertown from November to the present time (Apr. 12).

Pine Grosbeaks were seen the first part of the winter. A White-throated Sparrow was found near Watertown on December 12. Redpolls were numerous and some very large flocks of Snow Buntings were seen.

173 Haley St., Watertown, N. Y.

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

GORDON M. MEADE

The weather pattern in the Adirondacks during the winter season paralleled the summer season of 1954 in that while the more southern parts of the State had little snow, the Adirondacks had the heaviest snowfall in many years — 168 inches at Saranac Lake between November 17th and March 31st. Furthermore there was a lack of thawing periods of any duration such as have occurred in recent years, so that snow lay deep and constantly all through the winter. It will be recalled that during the summer of 1954 the Adirondack region suffered unusually heavy and constant rainfall while more southern parts of the State were below normal in rainfall. The heaviest snowfall of the winter came on March 25th-27th.

During December the average daily maximum (25 degrees) at Saranac Lake was about usual, as was the average daily minimum (10 degrees). Maximum reading for the month was 42 degrees, minimum reading was —4 degrees (usually this is around —20 degrees). January's average daily maximum (18 degrees) was somewhat lower than usual, as was the average daily minimum, (8 degrees). Maximum reading for the month was the lowest in 5 years, 35 degrees, the minimum of —21 degrees was about usual. The February average daily maximum (27 degrees) and the minimum (8 degrees) were about usual. However, the month's maximum was higher than any of the past six years at 47 degrees, while the minimum was the lowest in 6 years at —38 degrees. For March the average daily maximum was about usual at 31.5 degrees, while the average daily minimum was the highest in 6 years at 18 degrees. The month's maximum and minimum were about usual at 53 degrees and —3 degrees.

Noteworthy for the period was the dearth of Evening Grosbeaks, Siskins, Purple Finches, White-winged Crossbills, Goldfinches, Tree Sparrows, Gray Shrikes, Snowy Owls and Black-capped Chickadees. The heavy influx of Pine Grossbeaks apparently moved out by mid-February. Noteworthy is a report of the Great Gray Owl near Tupper Lake and two reports of Snow Geese in central mountains —at Saranac Lake, December 26th - January 11th and at Tupper Lake on April 3rd.

LOONS — DUCKS — SNOW GOOSE: A single bird was found in the Saranac River at Saranac Lake on December 26th. This bird remained around the Village until at least January 11th and probably later. The river through the Village remained open all this period. One early morning he was seen on the front lawn of the public library but flew off as people came on the streets. Six birds were seen in a field at Tupper Lake on April 3rd. These birds may have been stragglers from the flocks which seem to regularly use the Lake Champlain valley as a flyway.

HAWKS — OWLS: Bald Eagle, January 19th, March 13th, March 8th. It is hard to tell whether the bird at Keeseville (Tom Lesperance) on January 19th was a wintering bird or an early return. What appear to be definite spring arrivals were at Saranac Lake March 8th (G. M. M.) and Tupper Lake, March 13th (M. K.). Ruffed Grouse: Came through the heavy winter in Adirondacks better than expected according to District Game Manager (G. T. Chase). Killdeer: March 12th and 27th, A. Amstutz and March 31, T. L. An early arrival noted at Tupper Lake on March 12th. More generalized influx March 27-31. Mourning Dove — Only report to

end of period was March 11th at Essex (M. C. Mason). Snowy Owls — None reported anywhere in the Adirondack area. One of our correspondents (T. L. of Keeseville) is a taxidermist and would certainly have learned of birds if present in the area. Great Gray Owl — A most interesting and exceedingly rare report comes from A. Amstutz of a bird of this species seen March 5th near Tupper Lake, deep in a wooded swamp.

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES — HORNED LARKS: March 13th M. K., March 1 G. M. M., March 12 A. A. First reported February 22nd at Essex (M. C. M.), then on March 1st at Saranac Lake (G. M. M.), generally present by March 12th (M. K. and A. A.). Canada Jay — Several near Tupper Lake on December 3rd (A. A.). Chickadee — There have been numerous reports from Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake area of the scarcity of this species this winter. This may be correlated with the unprecedented southward flights reported in the fall in western New York. Red-breasted Nuthatch — None at Tupper Lake feeder when usually common. Scarce at Saranac Lake. Carolina Wren — Reported several times in the past few years from Essex on Lake Champlain, this bird reached the central mountains at Saranac Lake this winter. A single bird visited feeder of G. M. Meade, December 1st to 18th. Robin — Scattered reports between March 3rd and 12th, then no reports until end of March when there was a heavy flight following the great snowfall of March 25th to 27th. Bluebird — Apparently late in arriving. No reports up to end of March. Pipits — Several small flocks in backyards of Tupper Lake on March 26th. They seemed exhausted and starved. This was in the midst of the heaviest snowfall of the winter. Shrike — No reports which can be definitely ascribed to Gray Shrike. Single birds reported March 12th at Saranac Lake, last week of March at Duane and Moira, and April 2nd at Keeseville. Only the Saranac Lake bird identified as to species (Migrant), the others may well have been returning birds of this species.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS — MEADOWLARK: A single bird remained at Saranac Lake until at least December 26th. Spring migrants appeared March 12th at Tupper Lake, March 23rd at Essex and March 23rd at Saranac Lake. Red-winged Blackbird — One to four birds remained at Saranac Lake until at least December 26th. The first flocks of spring migrants appeared generally between March 11th and 17th (Keeseville, March 11th; Saranac Lake, March 12th; Essex, March 13th and Plattsburgh, March 17th). Bronzed Grackle — First migrants at Plattsburgh on March 14th. Cowbird —Two birds remained in Saranac Lake area until at least December 26th. General spring influx March 12th to 28th. Evening Grosbeak — Marked reduction in numbers as compared to recent years reported throughout Adirondack region by all observers. A migratory movement through the area from mid-October to mid-November but only small numbers remained through the winter. There seemed to be somewhat larger numbers during the winter along Champlain Valley than in central mountains. In late March and early April birds definitely increased in numbers. Purple Finches — No reports at all except from Keeseville (T. L.) where there were small to large flocks after December. Pine Grosbeak — One of the most marked incursions in several years began in the first half of November. Between late January and mid-February the birds moved out and none have been seen anywhere since February 16th. This seems to correlate with reports from the Buffalo area where no birds were reported in February after a heavy inflow earlier. Redpolls — Small to large flocks since early January. Uncommon in central Adirondacks, fairly common along Lake Champlain, especially since early January. Siskins — No reports anywhere. Goldfinch — None reported except a few flocks around Keeseville and returning birds at Tupper Lake on March 13th. Crossbills — No reports this winter of White-winged Crossbills. Scattered reports of flocks of Red Crossbills at Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake and Duane between mid-February and March 30th. Tree Sparrows — Very scarce throughout. Song Sparrows — Appeared generally throughout the region March 12th-13th. Snow Bunting — Abundant in most areas throughout the winter up to mid-March.

The scarcity of Chickadees and Evening Grosbeaks has led to a general complaint of the "scarcity of birds" this winter in the central Adirondacks area by feeding station operators and observers. The lack of some of the winter finches such as Siskins, Purple Finches, Red Crossbills and Tree Sparrows may also have contributed to this impression.

Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 8 — HUDSON - MOHAWK

James K. Meritt

The winter was a relatively mild one, with above normal temperatures recorded in Schenectady in each of the four months. February temperatures were no less than 4.6 degrees above the average. Precipitation was about normal in December, February, and March. January, however, was one of the driest months on record in the Schenectady area, with only .56 inches of precipitation recorded.

LOONS — DUCKS: A Holboell's Grebe was seen at Lake Saratoga on December 5 (Schenectady Bird Club). A Mute Swan was observed there on December 4 (Nelle Van Vorst) and on subsequent dates later in the month. A most interesting record is that of some 38 Snow Geese first seen by Walter Kaskin on March 26 along the Mohawk near Niskayuna. A male Wood Duck was seen on the Schenectady Christmas Count of December 26 (SBC). Another bird was reported that week from Watervliet Reservoir, just south of Schenectady. Several pairs of Hooded Mergansers were on the Mohawk at Scotia on March 20 (James Meritt). American Mergansers wintered wherever there was open water.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Rough-legged Hawk was seen near Scotia on December 12 (Esly Hallenbeck), and another was observed near Altamont on January 30 (Sam Madison). On February 1 and 4 one was reported from Delmar, near Albany (Walt Sabin). A Bald Eagle was seen on the Schenectady Christmas Count, and two adult Bald Eagles were observed along the Hudson below Albany on January 16 (SM, WS). Two Coots were observed at Saratoga Lake on December 31 (NVV), and one was seen on the Troy Christmas Count of January 2 (SBC). One or two winter Killdeer reports were received. A Woodcock was seen at Amsterdam on March 13 (Margaret Fitzgerald). A Great Black-backed Gull was seen along the Mohawk at Scotia on March 1 and 2 (Guy Bartlett) and again on March 27 (JM, NVV). Six species of owls were reported during the period. A Barn Owl was captured, photographed, and released at a Schenectady church on February 19 (Mildred Crary). A Screech Owl was seen under the eaves of a barn at Gallupville on January 31 (Grace Zimmer). Three Great Horned Owls were recorded on the Schenectady Christmas Count (SBC), and one was heard at Alplaus on January 21 (Adeline Heitkamp). A Snowy Owl was observed near Altamont on January 31 (SM, JM). On March 10 a Barred Owl was found dead along a road near Albany. The specimen was identified by Dr. Allen Benton. On January 16 a Short-eared Owl was seen near Catskill (JM).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from quite a few localities. A Brown-capped Chickadee was seen on the Schenectady Christmas Count, and another individual was present throughout January at Lock 1 along the Hudson (SBC). On January 24 two Carolina Wrens were seen at Scotia (EH). A Brown Thrasher was observed at Scotia on February 15 (EH), and a Robin was seen there on January 3 (NVV). An interesting note concerns the Kinglets; not a one — of either species — was reported throughout the period. Several Northern Shrikes were observed, and a Loggerhead Shrike, well studied, was seen near Rexford on March 2 (EH).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Nothing to report.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: During the last week of December two Baltimore Orioles were seen, one at a feeder in Amsterdam and the other at a feeder in Slingerlands (SBC). A lone Rusty Blackbird was reported from Loudonville on January 1 and February 17 (Mabel French). Two Cowbirds frequented an Amsterdam feeder in January (Margaret Fitzgerald). Cardinal records were unprecedented, and suffice it to say that anywhere from 8 to 10 individuals were reported. Last year's nesting may well be repeated. A Dickcissel, recorded on the Amsterdam Christmas Count of December 26, was present there to at least January 26. Evening Grosbeaks were reported throughout the winter from feeders in Amsterdam and Broadalbin and in several other areas. Purple Finches were extremely scarce; only four individuals were reported. In sharp contrast, it was a banner winter for Pine Grosbeaks. Flocks of up to 50 or so were reported until the beginning of the fourth week in January. Then, suddenly, the birds disappeared, possibly because of the relatively warm weather then prevalent. Redpolls were abundant throughout the area, with many reports received from many areas. Pine Siskins were present in fewer numbers.

Fourteen Red Crossbills and a group of some twenty White-winged Crossbills were seen on the Schenectady Christmas Count (SBC). A small group of White-winged Crossbills was reported from Ballston Lake in late February and early March (NVV). The first local record of Oregon Junco was made on January 9 near New Scotland when Mr. and Mrs. Byran Hipple carefully studied one which was with a group of Slate-coloreds. In late March two "suspicious-looking" juncos were reported from a feeder in Amsterdam, but specific identification could not be made before the birds departed. A White-throated Sparrow was seen at Scotia on January 24 (EH). Several groups of Snow Buntings were reported, with an estimate of 1,000 near Scotia on March 8 being especially noteworthy (Mr. and Mrs. J. Voght). Two Lapland Longspurs were recorded on the Troy Christmas Count of January 2 (SBC).

901 State Street, Schenectady, N. Y.

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

ROBERT F. DEED

Most of this winter's snowfall was packed into March and late February. After a nasty November, the season led off with a mild, wet December. Then came a deceptively rigorous January; most people seemed to think it was a mild month, yet records showed that it was much colder than average, as well as the driest in Weather Bureau history.

The more violent weather of late February and all of March — with coatless days interspersed with windy 20-degree days, and thunderstorms mixed with snowstorms — didn't seem to affect the spring migration one whit. On Feb. 16, migrant robins and grackles appeared at Nyack in numbers, and song sparrows and cardinals burst into full song — all on a cold, blustery day. On Feb. 19, redwings appeared in flocks of up to 200 in the interior of Rockland County; on Feb. 26, flocks of Canada geese headed northward; on Mar. 9, robins and fox sparrows flooded into Rockland County in great numbers.

Waterfowl population remained about normal in Ulster County, but was regarded as subnormal in Rockland, Orange, Putnam, and Westchester until the northward migration began. Then the ducks were more than satisfactory.

Northern finches apparently went farther south, too, like the waterfowl. They were abundant in early winter, though less so than in 1951-52; most were absent in January and early February, reappearing then in good-sized flocks. Brown-capped Chickadees were a rare treat of the winter. Red-breasted Nuthatches wintered in modest numbers.

LOONS — DUCKS: A Common Loon on Orange Lake, Orange County, Mar. 26 to 28 was early (Edward D. Treacy). At Lake Gleneida, Putnam County, Mrs. George W. Little got a high count of nine Pied-billed Grebes on Jan. 17. Rockland County had a Great Blue Heron on Mar. 19, a new early date (Dr. M. R. Hopper, Eugene R. Brown); in Katonah, Westchester, Mrs. Ruth G. Grierson found one on Mar. 29, and her husband Stanley saw one at Cross River the next day.

The waterfowl census in Ulster County on Jan. 23 turned up a Canada Goose on Ashokan Reservoir — very unusual (Henry and Ilse Dunbar, Fred Hough). The reservoir also held an outstanding number of 650 Black Ducks at the same time, although all but 30 or 40 acres of the lake was frozen.

Numbers of the beautiful Ring-necked Duck are evidently still rising. On the waterfowl census, Jan. 15, Mr. and Mrs. Grierson and John and Edward Kelly counted 262 on Titicus Reservoir in Westchester; in early March, more than 125 were on Congers Lake in Rockland; four were even on the Hudson River at Cornwall, Orange County, from Dec. 27 through Jan. 3 (Treacy).

Canvasbacks, too, were widely distributed in the lower Hudson Valley. The Rockland Audubon Society Christmas count found more than 250 at Stony Point; only 75 were still there on Feb. 27, but others were scattered up and down the river from Piermont to Cornwall. Redheads appeared on Congers Lake for the first time in recent years, six of them from Mar. 9 to Mar. 31 (Dr. Hopper). Buffleheads also moved inland: to Lake Gilead and Lake Gleneida at Carmel, Putnam County, on

Jan. 17 and Mar. 12 (Mrs. Little); to Congers and Rockland Lakes, Rockland County, from Mar. 6 to 21 (Dr. Hopper); to the Bear Mountain lakes through Mar. 27 (John C. Orth).

A flock of Ruddy Ducks on the Hudson at Piermont, Rockland County, built up to nearly 500 by the end of March. The Griersons found a Green-winged Teal at Katonah on Mar. 11; Ed Treacy reports three at Orange Lake, Orange County, a day later. Wood Ducks arrived at Katonah on Mar. 14 (the Griersons) and at Burnside, Orange County, on Mar. 19 (Treacy). Two Red-breasted Mergansers, rare inland, were on the Hudson at Cornwall on Mar. 30 (Treacy).

HAWKS — OWLS: Ed Treacy discovered a Turkey Vulture roost at Orr's Mills, Orange County, with three birds on Feb. 24 and about three dozen by the end of March. A Cooper's Hawk was seen killing a Ruffed Grouse at Katonah on Mar. 18 (William Russell), and a Goshawk occurred Jan. 17 in Sullivan County (Dimock). No Rough-legged Hawk reports.

An injured Virginia Rail was found at Haverstraw, Rockland County, on Mar. 8 (John C. Orth). Coots wintered in numbers; Mrs. Little counted 57 on Lake Gleneida at Carmel on Jan. 17, about the same as a year earlier. A Woodcock was heard calling at New City on Feb. 19, a new early date for Rockland (John M. Price); a full courtship performance was heard at 11 p. m. on Mar. 10 (Hopper, Brown). Woodcock arrived at Carmel, Putnam County, on Mar. 12 (Mrs. Little); at Pound Ridge, Westchester, on Mar. 13 (the Griersons); in Sullivan County on Mar. 24 (Dimock, Hammond, Niven). Wilson's Snipe were reported from Carmel by Mrs. Little on Mar. 12, from New City by Dr. Hopper on Mar. 10.

The Saw-whet Owl, recorded only twice previously in Rockland County, was found three times in January: dead birds on Jan. 11 and Jan. 30 and another alive on Jan. 21, all in the Bear Mountain area (Orth, John Kenney). A Snowy Owl was also seen near Bear Mountain on Jan. 31 by J. Ossman.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Kingfishers were fairly numerous in Westchester and Rockland, as usual, and two were reported from Ulster County by Fred Hough. In Sullivan County, Wilbur P. Carr saw a Kingfisher on Jan. 29. Carr reports the Pileated Woodpecker increasing in Sullivan County.

For some unknown reason, the standard woodpeckers of the Bear Mountain-Harriman region were down in numbers at the Christmas count on Jan. 2: Downy, 31 last year, 16 this year; Hairy, 11 last year, none this year; Pileated, 8 last year, 3 this year. This decline, Jack Orth reports, was even more marked in some other species: Blue Jay, 145 last year, 10 this year; Black-capped Chickadee, 196 last year, 88 this year; White-breasted Nuthatch, 41 last year, 12 this year; Goldfinch, 103 last year, 4 this year; Slate-colored Junco, 251 last year, 45 this year; Tree Sparrow, 469 last year, 291 this year; Song Sparrow, 25 last year, 6 this year. On the other hand, Pine Siskin increased from 2 last year to 108 this year, and House Sparrow from 82 to 106.

The Phoebe set a new early date of Mar. 10 in Rockland County. Prairie Horned Larks were at their nesting site in Pearl River, Rockland, by Feb. 25 (Homer S. Kelsey) but no nest has been found yet. A good flight of 100 Tree Swallows on Mar. 19 (Hopper, Brown) was rather early for Rockland County.

Brown-capped Chickadees occurred for the first time in Rockland County, Dec. 27 through Jan. 10 (Dr. Hopper, Thomas G. Dow) and in Westchester County on Jan. 29 through March at the feeding station of Andrew McWaters, Mt. Kisco, and Feb. 4 at Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Pearl's home in Yorktown Heights. This Chickadee also appeared on the Sullivan County Christmas count for the first time.

A Carolina Wren stayed at a feeder in Katonah from Dec. 21 well into January (William Russell), and another was seen near New Paltz, Ulster County, on Feb. 20 (Dr. Robert Pyle). A few Hermit Thrushes wintered, and — very remarkably — two Olive-backed Thrushes, one on the Bear Mountain census Jan. 2 (Orth) and another in Rockland County on Jan. 14 (Mrs. Frances H. Irving). Golden-crowned Kinglets were noticeably scarce.

In Mt. Kisco, Westchester, a dozen Cedar Waxwings were observed feeding on firethorn berries on Dec. 16 (Helena and John Bennet). Mrs. Little studied a flock of 16 waxwings on Mar. 25 at Carmel, noting that four appeared larger and had white wingbars, like Bohemian Waxwings.

Five Gray Shrikes were reported: Jan. 9 at New City, Rockland (Frank R. Steffens), Jan. 30 at New Paltz (John Burroughs N. H. S. field trip), Jan. 30 in Sullivan County (Kenneth D. Niven), Mar. 13 at the West Point Military Academy (Treacy), and Mar. 24 at Temple Hill, Newburgh (Treacy).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A Rusty Blackbird near New Paltz, Ulster, on Jan. 30 (Dunbar, Cragin, Meng, Hayes) and three Rusties in Sullivan County on Feb. 18 (Hammond) were unusual, as were two Meadowlarks in Sullivan County the following day (Hammond). Wilber Carr was startled to find a male Baltimore Oriole at Ferndale, Sullivan County, on Mar. 20.

Records of Evening Grosbeak and Pine Grosbeak were too numerous to list in full. Notes of these species in Westchester and Putnam Counties are especially copious. In Ulster County, Fred Hough comments that the Evening Grosbeak population was lower than in some years, but the Pine Grosbeak was far higher — the reverse of the usual situation. Both were common in Sullivan County, spotty in their occurrence in Rockland and Orange. In the Highlands, for example, Pine Grosbeaks occurred for the first time on a Bear Mountain census, Jan. 2, then were not reported until Mar. 18 or 19, when Ranger Muz Jones at Lake Sebago described a large flock of "Canadian Robins" in the tamarack groves. Hough observed a preference of Pine Grosbeaks for tamarack and lilac buds and for the fruit of cedar and honeysuckle — but even more particularly for the winged seeds of the maples. He believes the abundance of maple seeds was a factor in attracting the birds this year.

Flocks of Evening Grosbeaks in Westchester ranged up to 60 on Jan. 2 at Katonah (William Russell), 11 on Jan. 8 at Mt. Kisco (Mrs. John Trainer), and 30 on Mar. 14 in Bedford (Letitia Morris). Notable records of Pine Grosbeaks in Westchester included 30 on Dec. 19 in Katonah (Mr. and Mrs. Frank McKown) and 50 on Dec. 23 in Katonah (Russell).

Purple Finches were less abundant than usual. In Ulster, Hough reports Pine Siskins also scarce, but the Rockland and Bear Mountain Christmas counts had by far the highest numbers ever. Redpolls were reported from Ulster only once, a flock of about 100 near Lake Mohonk (Pyle). A flock of 24 were seen in Sullivan County on Jan. 29 (McBride) and 60 at Carmel, Putnam County, on Mar. 20 (Mrs. Little). None in Rockland County.

No White-winged Crossbills were noted in Ulster County or in Sullivan, but elsewhere the flight was the best in modern times. In Putnam, a flock of 12 seen by Mrs. Little on Dec. 28 in Carmel grew to 25 or 30 by Jan. 4 and 5. A dozen were seen on February 6 in Bedford Hills by the John Kelly family and two were spotted on Feb. 20 in Bedford Center by Peter Ferret at Rippowam School, where Westchester's first record was obtained two years ago. Rockland's records included a flock of 20 on Jan. 30 (Mr. and Mrs. Edmund G. Barron) and a scattering of others to Mar. 24 (James Bloor).

A probable Pink-sided Junco was watched from Jan. 9 through 15 at the home of Frank R. Steffens, New City, Rockland. Many Towhees wintered. Snow Buntings occurred Dec. 26 for the first time on the Rockland Audubon Society Christmas count, and a flock of seven was seen on Mar. 27 in Sullivan County (Carr).

50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 10 — MARINE

John J. Elliott

Cold weather in early January sealed many lakes and ponds which reduced numbers of fresh-water ducks to a minimum. With practically all of the western bays frozen, Scaup and Black Ducks resorted to the ocean. The cold weather was short-lived, however, and by late January a thaw had set in. There has been little extremely cold weather since and no heavy snow fall all winter. Despite this the Anatinae remained scarce until spring migration.

A notable feature of the winter was the scarcity of late-winter birds, especially sparrows, along the grassy strips at Jones Beach. In years of bountiful seed harvest, many flocks resort these strips in March and April. Several factors contributed to the present sterility: the severe erosion of fall hurricanes caused by washing away of dune grasslands; fill operations for several miles at Gilgo; widening of the causeways from the mainland with removal of the side grassy strips; and extraordinary high March winds. The

latter caused the grass strips to be drifted with white sand resulting in very disappointing counts on the late winter surveys. Highlighting observations for mid-winter was Gerald Rising's excellently organized statewide Waterfowl Census, January 15-23, and the annual get-together of some half-dozen Long Island bird clubs at Montauk, January 29, sponsored by the Queens County Bird Club.

Winter-finch population continued good into February then fell off markedly. Sterility on the outer beaches was no doubt a contributing factor to the early departure of the Snow Bunting.

LOONS — DUCKS: There were fair numbers of Common and Red-throated Loons, numerous Horned Grebes, but few Holboell's and no Eared Grebe reports. The maximum Common Loons, January 15, in one area (Montauk to Amagansett) were 137. There was a good concentration of European Cormorants at Montauk into February and a small flight of Gannets at Atlantic and Jones Beaches in mid-March.

Counted on the census were 322 Mute Swans and two Whistling Swans. Particularly scarce among fresh-water ducks were Pintail (50 for the entire Long Island area), Green-winged Teal (17) and Shoveller (31). A good concentration of 908 Baldpate was found at Bridgehampton (C. McKeever) and 155 Ring-necked Ducks, around the Smithtown ponds, indicate the ever increasing influx of this species into the Northeast in recent years. The American Brant was confined principally to southwestern bays; 5,340 Canvas-backs comprised the major flock in the Little Neck Bay - Flushing Bay area. Scaup were by far the commonest and most widespread duck with 39,165 for Long Island and 16,473 for the rest of Marine Region 10 The Black Duck was next with 20,209 for Long Island and 912 for the rest of the region.

Red-breasted Mergansers were plentiful on western bays, but very scarce on the sound near the city and on both forks of Long Island except at Montauk. On the Orient peninsula, in the township of Southold, Roy Latham found three species — 1,650 Black Ducks, 1,425 American Golden-eye and 1,250 Old-squaws to exceed the combined 1,127 of all three Scoters. No great scoter concentrations were listed, except one of about 8,000 at Jones Beach. Some 6,000 unidentified scoters, however, brought the White-winged Scoter count (6547) down considerably lower than it actually was and permitted the American Golden-eye to take third place on the list with a count of 8,416. Maximum Buffle-head: 403, Nicoll Point to Smith Point (R. Arbib, Jr.). Maximum Ruddy Ducks: East River, near Hunt Point, 122 (Elliott).

HAWKS — OWLS: A Bald Eagle was seen at South Haven; Accipiters were scarce; Red-tailed Hawk was reported from four locations; the Rough-legged Hawk was rather uncommon — the latest, Brookhaven, March 20. A Red-shouldered Hawk was present at Pelham in mid-December. The Duck Hawk was extremely rare, and Gyrfalcons absent this winter.

There were two King Rail records in January from eastern Long Island, several of Virginia Rail through the winter and about a half dozen Wilson's Snipe at Tackapausha Preserve near Seaford consistently for several months. Good winter records of Red-backed Sandpipers and Sanderlings came in, and several breakwaters, eastward to Montauk, harboured Purple Sandpipers. Iceland Gulls were rather scarce. There were four or five records of Glaucous; several of Kittiwake; 250 Bonaparte's at Rockaway, Dec. 11. Four Black Skimmers were seen flying low over the water at Atlantic beach, Jan. 2 (J. Bull, A. Penberthy). Several Razor-billed Auks appeared off eastern Long Island; a Black Guillemot was reported from western Long Island (Mayer, Rose), and a Brunnich's Murre at Atlantic Beach, Dec. 21 (J. Bull). A flock of about 25 Mourning Doves spent part of the winter at Tackapausha Preserve, flying in at night to roost. The Snowy Owl flight was comparatively light with maximum numbers around the end of the year. Several records of Short-eared Owls came in from Jamaica Bay; two of Long-eared, Mar. 17 at North Hills, and a Great Horned Owl was present at Orient, Feb. 21 (R. Latham).

SWIFTS — TANAGERS: Kingfishers and Flickers were rather scarce; Tree Swallows wintered at Jones Beach in the Cedar Beach area with goodly numbers of

Myrtle Warblers, both subsisting on the fair crop of bayberries (Myrica). Several records of Brown-capped Chickadees came in, one of two present at North Hills into mid-March. Several Mockingbirds were seen; a few Bluebirds wintered; Pipits were scarce — the latest; one at Orient, Dec. 23. Orange-crowned Warblers appeared at Babylon and Manhasset, and a Western Tanager was observed at a feeding station at Locus Valley into early April (Mrs. E. Wright).

FINCHES — SPARROWS: Cardinals were fairly common and appeared to winter well. Evening Grosbeaks were casually reported to the first of the year. Pine Grosbeaks and Redpolls infrequently reported, but Red and White-winged Crossbills were abundant into the new year with drastic reduction of numbers by late January. The Ipswich Sparrow was regular at Short Beach; three were reported around Jamaica Bay and several elsewhere in spite of sterile conditions on the outer beaches. Early optomistic reports of Snow Buntings faded with poor feeding conditions and the latest record was a lone bird, March 12, at Atlantic Beach. A few Lapland Longspurs were reported in late fall, but apparently didn't linger.

3994 Park Ave., Seaford, Long Island, New York.

Notes From Here and There . . . .

COOPER'S HAWKS

This winter we had two extremely good opportunities to study hawks at close hand.

In January, I discovered a Sharp-shinned Hawk in the largest of the poultry houses. It had found its way into one of the top-floor windows, but evidently was too puzzled by the tip-up to make an exit. I was able to corner and pick it up. We banded it that evening and released it the following day.

The hawk showed absolutely no fear of humans, and its heartbeat during handling was not obviously increased, as seems to be the case with many smaller species of birds which we have raised. It seemed quite content to perch the afternoon out in a large aviary in our kitchen. The interest it displayed whenever the refrigerator and oven doors were opened was extremely amusing. Evidently the automatic lights in the daytime proved an irresistible attraction. When it was turned loose in the house, Mrs. Carr had no difficulty in retrieving it from the floor or from the backs of chairs where it perched. Human-raised, probably?

Again, on February 18th, I found a hawk, this time a Cooper's, under similar circumstances. This fellow was intent on making short shrift of one of our plump Leghorn hens. Early in his career of predation, he must have feasted — with, no doubt, a great deal of opposition — on a rabbit. A thong of rabbit skin with some fur still adhering to the hide was wound around the toes of one foot. So tightly had the hawk's toes become interlaced that two toes had atrophied and dropped off.

About six inches of the thong still dangled hazardously, but the contact portion of the hide was so deeply imbedded and so steel-hardened that I had no choice but to cut partially into the toes to remove it. Some slight bleeding occurred, but apparently no serious damage resulted. This chap was also fearless but certainly not tame. We took several good snapshots after banding him. Since his release, we have observed two of his species

constantly together, and we hope they have decided to nest in our woods, as they follow the same route back and forth each day at approximately the same hours. Happy hunting to them, say I!

Wilbur P. Carr, Ferndale, N. Y.

A NEW ALLEN-KELLOGG RECORD

Cornell University Records, 124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, New York, has recently published a second issue of *American Bird Songs*. Sixty of the songs of our most familiar birds plus an additional twenty-eight in the background were placed on one long playing record. Most recordings were made since 1942 when the first issue was released.

The excellence of this recent issue is a tribute to the authors and to modern techniques of recording.

NEW EDITION OF CONSERVATION BIBLIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE

The second edition of the popular *"Bibliography of Free and Inexpensive Materials for Teaching Conservation and Resource-use"* by Muriel Beuschlein has been published by the Conservation Project of the National Association of Biology Teachers. Copies are available at ten cents with 20% discount on orders of 100 or more, from the Project Leader, Dr. Richard L. Weaver, P. O. Box 2073, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The revised bibliography will be Chapter XII in *"Handbook on Teaching Conservation and Resource-use"* which was prepared by the Conservation Project Committee and which will be released early in 1955. The Handbook contains descriptions of over one hundred school projects or programs in conservation and resource-use from thirty states. It will assist teachers in planning for classroom and club programs; school ground and community projects; for elementary and secondary children. Advance orders can be placed with the Project Leader. It will cost $4.00 per copy, with a 20% discount to teachers and schools. Proceeds from the sale of the Handbook will be used to locate additional descriptions for use in later editions of the Handbook.

THE CAT REPRINT

The Federation does not intend to campaign against cats as some readers may have gathered from the January *Kingbird* insert. A portion of one of several letters to the editor concerning this article is shown below.

"I sincerely hope that you were not personally responsible for the irrational, emotional diatribe against cats that I found inserted in my January *Kingbird*. I consider this sort of writing unfortunate at best, but that it should be deliberately circulated among the membership of an organization as varied as ours is doubly unfortunate. We have many members with enough training in economic zoology or in semantics to recognize this broadside for the carefully calculated appeal to the emotions that it is. It is loaded with what are called 'weighted words' . . . 'purring', pampered predator' . . . 'princely pest' . . . 'the most vicious and cruel killer'."

"There might be some justification for such misinformation in 1949; there is *none* for its reprinting and circulation in 1955. I call your attention to pages 82 to 86 of Bob Eadie's new book *Animal Control in Field, Farm and Forest* (Macmillan, 1954), where a summary of *scientific* surveys of the diet of vagrant house cats is presented, *without* any emotional advance bias. It is soon obvious that the true situation is almost the reverse of that pictured by our good 'country doctor', with the proviso that the doctor was correct in considering the cat to be a minor predator of the Norway Rat. Rodents are the major, birds a minor portion of the diet of vagrant cats. This is not based on 'undercover autopsies performed beneath shaded lights' in a cellar, but on careful, accurate analyses by trained technicians whose results are available in published form for any interested investigator."

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Regional Report Coverage	*Deadline to Kingbird*	*Approx. Publ. Date*	*Issue Number*
Dec., Jan., Feb., March	April 15	May 15	No. 1—May Issue
April, May	June 15	July 15	No. 2—July Issue
June, July	Sept. 15	Oct. 15	No. 3—Oct. Issue
Aug., Sept. Oct., Nov.	Dec. 15	Jan. 15	No. 4—Jan. Issue

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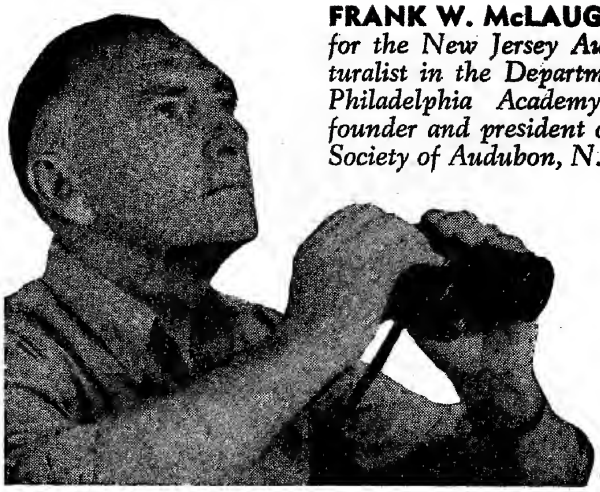

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